(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The details of the surveys which have been taken up in the Hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh to link various religious places are as under :-

(i) Rishikesh-Dehradun (30 Kms.)

(ii) Haridwar-Ramnagar via Kotdwar (125 Kms.)

(iii) Muzaffarnagar-Haridwar Via Roorkee (95 Kms.)

(vi) Rishikesh-Karanparyag (185 Kms.)

(v) Chandigarh-Dehradun Via Paonta Sahib (220 Kms.)

(vi) Kiccha-Sitargajn-Nanakmata-Khatema (55 Kms.)

(vii) Tanakpur-Purnagiri (15 Kms.)

(e) Further consideration of the projects would be possible once the survey reports become available.

[English]

Bongaon-Petrapole Railway Line

989. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since decided to construct the Bongaon-Petrapole Railway Line in the Sealdah-Bongaon Section of the Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in that direction;

(c) whether the Government have already taken up the matter of linking up Petrapole with Benapole with the Government of Bangladesh to establish direct Railway link between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the response of Bangladesh thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). A preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for restoration of Bongaon-Petrapole has been taken up by the Railways.

The issue has also been taken up with Govt. of Bangladesh but no clearcut response has been received.

[Translation]

Criteria Adopted for Organising Light and Sound Shows

990. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted by the India Tourism Development Corporation for organising 'Light and Sound Shows' at ancient historical monuments;

(b) the expenditure incurred in organising the shows during each of the last three years; and

(c) the number of such monuments selected in Uttar Pradesh alongwith the details of income and expenditure incurred in organising such shows?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Presently ITDC is operating there Son-et-Lumiere (SEL) Shows at Red Fort, New Delhi, Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad, Shalimar Garden, Srinagar. All these shows wee mounted by the Department of Tourism, Govt. of India. The SEL Show at Red Fort Delhi was subsequently pruchased by ITDC from Department of Tourism. The other two shows at Ahmedabad & Srinagar are being operated by ITDC on behalf of the Department of Tourism. ITDC has not formulated any guidelines for organising Light & Sound Show at ancient historical monuments. Nevertheless the Deptt. of Tourism extends financial assistance to State Govts. to set up SEL shows, under the guidelines of the scheme.

(b) The details of the expenditure incurred by ITDC during last three years on organising the aforesaid shows being operated by it are given below :

S.No.	Name/Place of Sound & Light Show	Expenditure in Rs. Lakhs		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Red Fort, Delhi	13.34	19.02	17.37
2.	Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad	4.26	5.64	5.31
3.	Shalimar Garden, Srinagar	2.59*	3.01*	4.10*

*Not in operation. Expenditure relates to maintenance only.

(c) ITDC is not organising/operating any Sound & Light Show in Uttar Pradesh. The question of income and expenditure therefore does not arise.

[English]

Airways Network

991. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the airways network for the North-East sector, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The Government have constituted a Committee comprising one member of Parliament from each of the 7 States in North East and Sikkim, representatives of private airlines, Indian Airlines, Alliance Air, Chairman, Airports Authority of India and Director General of Civil Aviation as convenor